**Socratic Seminar: A Knife Idea**

**Nomen: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Datum: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Seminar Overview:**

This quarter’s Socratic Seminar will be based on the philosophical question of how and when things come in to existence—the philosophy term is *epistemology.* You will be trying to prove when you believe something becomes real.

**Seminar Question:**

The essential question to frame your argument for this seminar is:

* *When in the story does the ‘knife’ become the knife?*

When you arrive to class on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, your notes, annotations, and handout should be prepared around making a *specific, concrete* argument answering that question.

**Resources**

You should be employing “A Knife Idea” and citations, quotes, and evidence from it. Outside resources are welcome and encouraged.

**Expectations**

1. Everyone should be participating. This is a discussion, not a lecture.
2. You *should try to always* use evidence when supporting your arguments.
3. You should be listening respectfully, and paying attention. Do so by *using good body language and eye contact.*
4. Please allow a speaker to finish speaking before responding. Do not cut people off.
5. Be considerate and open-minded. **The purpose of a Socratic Seminar is not to win an argument. The point is to further your understanding of a topic. The only way to do so is to keep an open mind and fully listen to what others have to say.**
6. Ensure that everyone has had a chance to speak, or has been encouraged to speak. Please consider others if you have been talking a fair amount of the time, and yield to someone who looks like they’ve been waiting patiently. **It is just as important to hear multiple viewpoints from others, as it is to make your own point. This is the only way to test and strengthen your argument.**

**Rubric**

Below are the criteria for scoring in this Socratic Seminar:

*There is a total of 25 points to be earned during the seminar. Socratic Seminars will be scored under the “Tests” category, so these points will be valuable.*

1. Participation: you can earn up to **5 points** for participation:

a. 3 points minimum for speaking at least once,

b. 4 points for contributing at least twice,

c. 5 points for contributing at least thrice.

2. Evidence: you can earn up to **5 points** for evidence use:

a. 3 points minimum for referencing the text once,

b. 4 points for referencing the text twice,

c. 5 points for using a reference multiple times with different arguments.

3. Preparation: you can earn up to **5 points** for preparation for the seminar:

a. 3 points minimum for bringing at the text

b. 4 points for bringing the text that is annotated, with your own thoughts included

c. 5 points for brining the text and also collecting specific quotes to use in your argument, with your own thoughts included.

4. Conduct: you can earn up to **10 points** for conduct during the seminar:

a. minimum 5 points for being respectful to all students.

b. 7 points for being respectful for the whole seminar, and for making good eye contact to all speakers.

c. 8 points for being respectful, making eye contact, letting others have their turn to speak, and speaking in a polite, calm, and respectful manner.

d. 9-10 points for all of the above, plus actively encouraging other students to speak.